

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

003 **MARVEL**

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!**



ACT THREE

ILLUSTRATED BY
ANDREA MUTTI

A MESSAGE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT MAYOR CHANDRAKE

AS YOU ALL KNOW, IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE THE UNDEAD MENACE FIRST BEGAN TERRORIZING THE WORLD. UNDER MAYOR **CHANDRAKE**'S LEADERSHIP, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE.

CHANDRAKE'S GUIDANCE HAS KEPT US SAFE AND ALLOWED US, NEW YORK'S SECRET CABAL OF VAMPIRES, TO RETAIN OUR POWER AND CONTROL. HE'S EVEN INVESTING IN FINDING A WAY TO "TAME" THE UNDEAD THROUGH HIS SPONSORSHIP OF SCIENTIST **PENNY JONES** AND HER PRIZE ZOMBIE SUBJECT, **XAVIER**. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROJECT HIT A SETBACK WHEN XAVIER WAS SHOT WHILE INTERFERING WITH OUR MEN PUTTING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO ON A SCHOOL BUS TO OUR...RELOCATION PROGRAM. LUCKILY, XAVIER RECOVERED QUICKLY.

DESPITE ALL HE'S DONE FOR US, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE HIS REIGN END. **CHILLY DOBBS**, ONCE ONE OF US, IS RUNNING AN OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN BANKROLLED BY **RUNYON**, A KNOWN COMPATRIOT OF REBELS AND OTHER UNSAVORY TYPES. WE HAVE INTEL THAT ASSOCIATES OF RUNYON'S CO-CONSPIRATOR **DIXIE** HAVE BEEN BEHIND A SERIES OF BOMBINGS.

ADDITIONALLY, AN INVESTIGATOR NAMED **PEREZ** AND THE ZOMBIE WRANGLER **PAUL BARNUM** HAVE BEEN GETTING CLOSE TO DISCOVERING SOME OF OUR MORE...DISCREET DEALINGS, INCLUDING OUR RELOCATION CAMPS.

KEEP NEW YORK SAFE. KEEP NEW YORK **OURS**. SPREAD THE WORD AND VOTE CHANDRAKE!



THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT MAYOR CHANDRAKE MEMBERS:

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GEORGE ROMERO'S EMPIRE OF THE DEAD: ACT THREE No. 3. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. © 2015 Romero-Grunwald Productions. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Romero-Grunwald Productions. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

MIDTOWN WEST.

I THINK
I KNOW WHAT
MIGHT BE GOIN'
ON OUT
THERE.

FRIENDS
OF YOURS,
DIXIE?

NOT
ANYMORE.

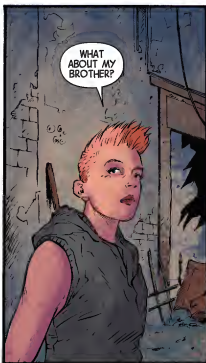


I AM THINKING
WE SHOULD SCRAM,
SO THAT WE DO NOT
HAPPEN TO LOOK UP
AND FIND A BOMB
DROPPING OVER
OUR HEADS.

WOULD
YOU PERHAPS
CONSIDER THE
IDEA OF
SCRAMMING...
WITH ME?



WHAT
ABOUT MY
BROTHER?



HE WILL BE
PART OF THE SCRAM.
AS WILL MY BODYGUARDS.
ME AND MY BODYGUARDS
HAVE ALWAYS COME
UP ACES.

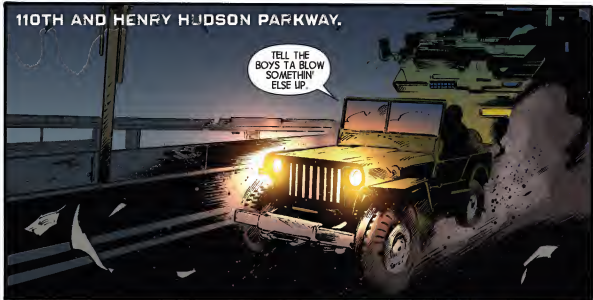


I'M WILLIN'
TA PLACE A BET
ON THEM ACES.
RUNYON, LET'S
SKEDADDLE!



110TH AND HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY.

TELL THE
BOYS TA BLOW
SOMETHIN'
ELSE UP.



SHOOT
AT SOMETHIN'
BIG, FELLAS.



TELL 'EM TO
KEEP THEM CARDS
AND LETTERS COMIN'.
ALL THE WAY DOWNTOWN.
THE COPS WON'T KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENING. WE'LL
HAVE EVERYBODY CHASIN'
US...BUT WE WON'T
BE THERE.



TARRYTOWN.

THAT'S
GOTTA BE
US.

CAN'T BE
US. WE ALL
IS HERE.

THE REST
OF US! DANIEL AND
HIS BOYS. I B'VE
THEY'S TRYIN' TA
BEAT ME TA
THE GOLD.



HOW
WE GONNA
STOP 'EM,
ZEB?

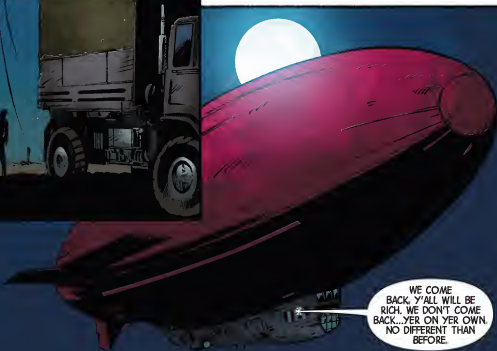
THIS HERE
FLYIN' MACHINE
AIN'T SO FAST AS A
JET. BUT IT'S ONE
HELLUVA LOT FASTER
THAN ROLLIN'
IRON.



CUT US
LOOSE AND
LET US FLY!



WE COME
BACK. Y'ALL WILL BE
RICH. WE DON'T COME
BACK...YER ON YER OWN.
NO DIFFERENT THAN
BEFORE.



DOWNTOWN.

SCHOOL BUSES,
AS REQUESTED, BARNUM.
WE GOIN' BACK UP TO
THAT FARM?

PROBLEM IS,
THAT PLACE IS SET
UP TO LOOK CLEAN.
LIKE CHANDRAKE'S
CATTLE FARMS.

HE BRINGS
REPORTERS THERE,
AND THEY WRITE
ARTICLES TELLING THE
PUBLIC THE CITY'S DOING
WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO
DO. PROVIDING FOOD.
MAKING LIFE
BETTER.

WE'RE
HEADIN' UP THERE,
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING
ELSE I WANT YOU TO
SEE FIRST.

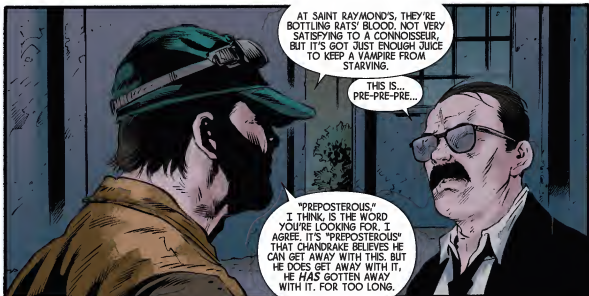
GO TO
TREMONT AVENUE.
BRONX. SAINT
RAYMOND'S HIGH
SCHOOL. AND TAKE A
LOOK INSIDE THE
GYMNASIUM.

YOU'RE NOT
GONNA BELIEVE THIS,
PEREZ. BUT THERE ARE
VAMPIRES IN THIS CITY.
MAYOR CHANDRAKE IS
ONE OF THEM.

THE REAL
"CROPS" THAT
COME FROM THOSE
FARMS ARE THE
KIDS WORKIN' IN
THEM.

CHANDRAKE'S
SICK WAY OF
INSURING A FUTURE
FOR HIS BREED. HE'S
GROWING...**FRESH
BLOOD!**

YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING. I
CAN'T BELIEVE
IT.



PENNY JONES'S LAB.



UNDER THE ARENA.





YOU
DO?

YES...AND
WE'RE GONNA GO
GET HER. UNDERSTAND,
XAVIER? WE'RE GONNA
GO GET LITTLE JO, AND
BRING HER BACK
TO US.



THAT'S IT.
YES, JO. THE
GIRL WHO GAVE
YOU THAT
BAG.



SHE'S IN A
KIND OF...PRISON
CAMP. WE'RE GONNA
NEED AN ARMY TO GET
HER OUT. AN ARMY
OF...GLADIATORS.



LOOKS
LIKE WE
GOT OUR FIRST
VOLUNTEER.

JO.FKTH
KVN.FIND.O
XFGFG:JO.

THE BRONX.



RIGHT
BEHIND YOU,
PEREZ!



STOP!
POLICE!



YOU
TWO, GO AFTER
THEM!

AND DON'T
COME BACK
WITHOUT 'EM!
THE REST OF
YOU...COME
WITH ME.

POLICE!
EVERYBODY
FREEZE!



HANDS
IN THE
AIR!



DIOS
MIO...

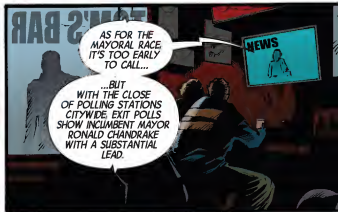


...BARNUM
KNEW ABOUT
THIS.





CHILLY DOBB'S SECRET ELECTION HEADQUARTERS.



THE LUCKY HORSESHOE.





WHAT'S
BEHIND THEM
DOORS?

HAVING BEEN
THE OWNER AND
MANAGER OF THIS
DUMP FOR A
NUMBER OF
YEARS...



...I HAVE
ACCUMULATED A
GREAT DEAL OF
LETTUCE. FROM STUPID
BETS THAT PEOPLE LAY
DOWN ON GAMES
OF CHANCE.



WHAT DOES
THAT "LETTUCE"
AMOUNT TO?



YOU
OUT THERE,
LOUIE?

I AM
HERE, BOSS.
DOORS
OPEN.

TELL TYRONE
TO START
SHOVELING.



OUTSIDE THE ARENA.

ALL RIGHT,
YOU STINKERS,
LISTEN TO OUI
SLIPSHOD AND
GET ON THE
BUS!



WHY? NMLU
PERNSE WHY
SFR THIS? MD



OKAY,
BARNUM,
WHAT ARE
WE DOING
HERE?



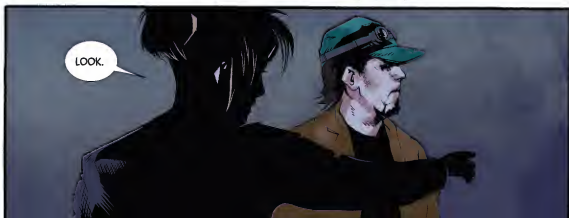
WE'RE
GOING TO
SAVE OUR
FRIENDS.





MYFRIENDS.THJ







THEY
SEEM
TO TRUST
YOU.

NOT ME.
YOU.

MAYBE A
BIT OF ME...
HAS RUBBED
OFF.



MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S APARTMENT.

EXCUSE
ME, SIR, BUT
DETECTIVE
PEREZ IS HERE
AGAIN.

HOW
ANNOYING.
WHAT IN THE
WORLD IS ALL
THAT BOOMING
OUTSIDE?

NO ONE
SEEMS TO KNOW,
SIR, BUT IT APPEARS
TO BE GETTING
CLOSER.

CALL
NUMBER ONE
AND FIND OUT.
NOW, AND SHOW
THE DETECTIVE
IN.



MAYOR
CHANDRAKE,
GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

DETECTIVE.
WHAT CAN
I DO FOR
YOU?



YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING SECRETS,
MISTER MAYOR. SECRETS THAT
EVERYONE IN THIS CITY WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW. I'M AFRAID WE
NEED TO TAKE YOU IN
FOR QUESTIONING.

QUESTIONING?
ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT
ACTIVITIES AT
SAINT RAYMOND'S
HIGH SCHOOL IN THE
BRONX, AND AT
CERTAIN GOVERNMENT
FACILITIES UP
NORTH.

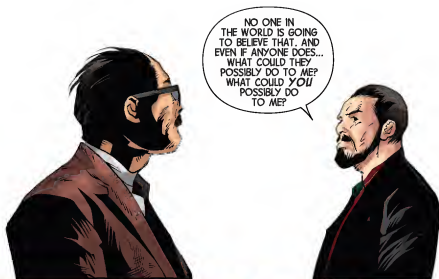
AH, WELL...IF YOU
KNOW ABOUT THOSE...
ACTIVITIES, IT WOULD
SEEM THAT YOU KNOW...

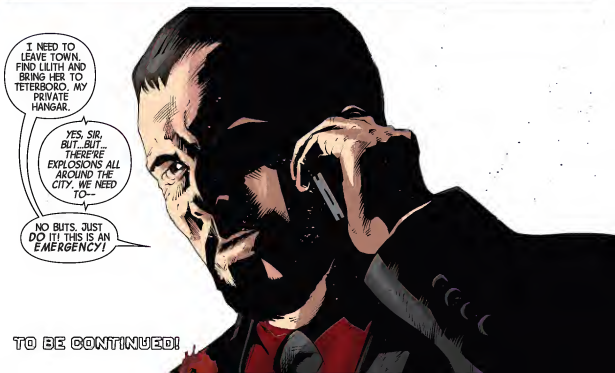


THAT
YOU ARE A
VAMPIRE!



AM I?
REALLY?





TO BE CONTINUED!

